

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USNATO 01737 201519Z
ACTION SS-25

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AMEMBASSY LISBON
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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 01737

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: NATO, PINT, PO, SP
SUBJECT: SPAIN, PORTUGAL AND NATO

REFS: (A) LISBON 1185 (DTG 151719Z FEB 78) (B) LISBON
1121 (DTG 140801Z FEB 78), (C) STATE 42740 (DTG 171957Z
FEB 78)

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1. REFS A AND B HIGHLIGHT PORTUGUESE LACK OF ENTHUSIASM
ABOUT POSSIBLE SPANISH MEMBERSHIP IN NATO AND FEARS THAT
THE SPANISH ROLE WOULD ECLIPSE THAT OF PORTUGAL. IT
STRIKES US THAT THE QUESTION OF HOW BEST TO DEAL WITH SUCH
SENSITIVITIES MIGHT BE CONSIDERED DURING THE UPCOMING
WASHINGTON MEETING IN PREPARATION FOR THE HIGH-LEVEL
MADRID SEMINAR (REF C).

2. THE PORTUGUESE AT NATO HAVE, OF COURSE, PARTICIPATED
IN ALL GENERAL DISCUSSIONS AT THE COUNCIL LEVEL ON POS-
SIBLE SPANISH MEMBERSHIP. THEY ARE LESS AWARE, HOWEVER,
OF SPECIFIC US THINKING ABOUT HOW TO LINK SPAIN AND THE
ALLIANCE. KEEPING THE PORTUGUESE BRIEFED ON US MOVES
RELATED TO SPANISH MEMBERSHIP MIGHT HELP ASSUAGE
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PORTUGUESE CONCERNS. GLITMAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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